

as long as the eye. The greatest depth of the body is between the lateral line and the base of the anal fin, where it is 3·4 inches. *Teeth.* Conical, with rounded summits, in two rows on the blind side in the upper jaw, and one on the coloured; smaller and fewer in the mandible. *Gill-rakers* removed. *Fins,* dorsal fin commences above the middle of the upper eye, its 32nd ray as high as any; it and a few beyond are each 1·5 of an inch in length and half as long as the head. A spine before the base of the anal fin; caudal fin similar to that of the Flounder. Free portion of the tail two thirds as long as high. *Scales* indistinctly ctenoid on the coloured side, cycloid on the blind side; they are extended over the cheeks and on the ridge between the eyes; there is also a row of them along each dorsal and anal ray. No osseous tubercles along the bases of dorsal or anal rays. *Lateral-line* with a strong curve anteriorly over the base of the pectoral fin, 1·6 inches in length and 0·7 of an inch high. *Colour* of a dark brown without spots, and white on the lower surface; the first portion of the dorsal fin whitish, also a narrow white edging along its first half, caudal also with a narrow white outer edge.

The number of rays, the ctenoid scales which are continued along the vertical rays, and the strong curve at the commencement of the lateral line point out to one of the parents of this fish being the Dab (*Pleuronectes limanda*), while the other must be a Flounder or a Plaice. The size of the fish, the absence of ossicles along the bases of the vertical fin-rays, and the number composing the anal fin at first led me to suppose the other parent might be a Plaice; but the dentition and the square-cut tail, as well as absence of spots, induces me to conclude that it must have been a Flounder. It came from Brixham.

While alluding to this specimen, I would suggest that *Pleuronectes pseudoflesus* of Gottsche, Wieg. Arch. 1835, pt. ii. p. 143, may probably be a hybrid Flounder.

The drawing (Pl. LXII.) represents the specimen at five elevenths of the natural size.

6. Notes on the Antelopes of Somali-Land.

By E. LORT PHILLIPS, F.Z.S.

[Received December 1, 1885.]

At the meeting of this Society on the 18th of November last year¹ Mr. Sclater read an excellent paper containing an account of some flat skins of Somali Antelopes and other Mammals which had been sent to him by Mr. C. Hagenbeck, the well-known dealer of Hamburg. Having recently visited Somali-land, along with my friends Messrs. James, Aylmer, and Thrupp, and obtained specimens of several species of Antelopes, I think it may interest the members of the Society if I exhibit the heads of the specimens that we have procured, and read a few notes on the country, of which very little seems to be known.

We left Berberch on the 22nd of December, 1884, and travelled

¹ See P. Z. S. 1884, p. 538.

nearly due south for about 300 miles, returning to our starting-point on the 16th of the following April. For the first eight miles after leaving the coast we crossed a flat sandy plain, thinly covered with dwarf Mimosas, and then ascended a plateau or tableland of about 3000 feet above the sea-level.

This plateau extends to the south for about 280 miles, and there ends as abruptly as on the north, the descent on both sides being very rapid. At the south margin of the plateau runs the Webbe-Shebeyli or Haynes River, through an immense plain. The banks of this river are extensively cultivated by the natives, who grow corn, beans, and water-melons. To any one wishing to know more of the country I would recommend a reference to Mr. F. L. James's account of this journey read before the Royal Geographical Society on the 29th of June of the present year (see Proc. R. Geogr. Soc. 1885, p. 625).

The following Antelopes were met with during our expedition. Mr. Sclater has determined the species for me.

1. STREPSICEROS IMBERBIS. (*Lesser Koodoo*).

This beautiful little Koodoo is found on the northern slopes of the plateau. It does not seem to differ much in its habits from the larger Koodoo: it is fond of thick covert, and I do not think it likely that it would be found very far from water. I exhibit a fine head of a male.

2. STREPSICEROS KUDU. (*Greater Koodoo*).

We did not meet with this species till we reached the southern slopes of the plateau, where it was said by the natives to be fairly plentiful. One example only was procured, a very fine male.

3. ORYX BEISA. (*Beisa Antelope*.)

This animal is highly prized by the Somali, as from its hide, which is very tough, are made their beautiful little shields, and its long pointed horns are used for loosening the earth during the tedious process of sinking wells.

During the rainy season the natives hunt these Antelopes on horseback, and they are easily ridden down, as they are then fat and heavy and their feet sink deep into the wet earth. In the dry season, owing, I suppose, to being hunted so much, it is extremely hard to approach them, and when once disturbed they gallop a long way without stopping. The head on the table is that of a female shot on the plateau.

4. GAZELLA WALLERI. (*Waller's Gazelle*.)

I have here to-night heads of both male and female of this species. The female is without horns. When seen from a distance this Antelope might easily be mistaken for a Giraffe, on account of its long thin neck. It was found to be fairly plentiful throughout our journey.

5. GAZELLA SPEKII. (*Speke's Gazelle*.)

These Gazelles are very plentiful on the low plain near Berberah,

where they may be seen in herds varying from three to ten in number. I did not notice any on the plateau.

6. GAZELLA, sp. inc. (*Flabby-nosed Gazelle*¹.)

This Gazelle was shot on the plateau towards the beginning of April. It is remarkable for having a quantity of loose skin on the nose. The Gazelles on the plateau seemed to me to differ greatly from those on the plain by the coast, as the black mark along the side was entirely wanting; they also looked much lighter in colour, in fact almost white.

I shot a female apparently of this species, but did not notice the extraordinary development of the skin of the nose as presented by the male.

7. GAZELLA SÆMMERRINGI. (*Sæmmerring's Gazelle*.)

This Antelope we thought to be of a new species, as it seemed larger than the Sæmmerring's Gazelles that we met with in the Bogos country in our former expedition; the horns certainly are much larger. It is extremely plentiful on the plateau, some of the herds numbering one hundred at least. Where these Antelopes drank, if they drank at all, is a mystery to me, as the only water obtainable on the plateau during the dry season is from wells about forty feet deep.

8. COBUS, sp. inc.² (*Water-buck*.)

We did not meet with this Antelope till we reached the banks of Webbe Shebeyli, where it was fairly plentiful among the thick jungle near the river. Its hide is much prized by the natives for making ropes, but the flesh they refuse to touch.

9. NEOTRAGUS, sp. inc.³ (*Dwarf Antelope*.)

These little animals were very abundant on the plateau. On being disturbed they bound off with great jumps, uttering a shrill cry. Their flesh tasted strongly of musk, but for want of other meats we had continually to eat it. I often got two or three at a time, with an ordinary charge of shot.

10. ALCELAPHUS, sp. inc. (*Hartebeest*.)

In the first week in April near the northern boundary of the plateau I shot a young male Hartebeest. I unfortunately lost the skull. It was the only time we ever saw any of this species.

¹ [This Gazelle, I think, belongs probably to a new species, but requires further examination.—P. L. S.]

² [No specimens were brought home of this Antelope, which was probably either *C. mipsiprymnus* or an allied species.—P. L. S.]

³ [This is a close ally of *Neotragus saltianus*, but perhaps different.—P. L. S.]